

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12756 010747Z

14

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INR-07 MC-02 EB-07 L-03 TRSE-00

SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 COME-00

AID-05 /057 W

----- 006682

R 010720Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6745

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

JCS/DOD/ISA

COMUSMACTHAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 12756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN, TH

SUBJECT: SALE OF M-16 RIFLES TO THAILAND

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2797; (B) MACTHAI 020913Z JUNE 75

1. WHILE THE RTG HAS NOT APPROACHED EMBASSY BANGKOK ABOUT THE PURCHASE OF M-16'S, THEY HAVE INITIATED ACTION WITH MACTHAI BY INQUIRING ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF 30,000 M-16'S THROUGH FMS (REF B).

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK 26 JUNE, POMILCOUNS WAS TOLD THAT SUBJECT 60,000 M-16'S ARE FOR THE THAI MILITARY AND DO NOT INCLUDE ANY RIFLES FOR THAI NATIONAL POLICE. ALSO, KRIANGSAK INDICATED THAT THE RTG WAS IN A HURRY TO OBTAIN THESE WEAPONS, AND THAT THE HECKLER-KOCH (H-K) FACTORY WOULD NOT BEGIN TO PRODUCE RIFLES UNTIL THE END OF 1975. (NOTE: IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF H-K PLANT WILL EVER BECOME OPERATIONAL.) KRIANGSAK WAS NOT CLEAR ON THE SOURCE OF THE M-16'S, BUT IMPLIED THAT AT LEAST SOME MIGHT BE PROCURED FROM COLT US.

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3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RTG, CONCERNED ABOUT LARGE STORES OF WEAPONS IN VIETNAM AND ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THESE MIGHT SOON FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE HANDS OF THAI INSURGENTS, IS ANXIOUS TO PROCURE M-16'S ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT LICENSING AND MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN COLT AND CHARTERED INDUSTRIES ARE FOR THOSE TWO FIRMS TO WORK OUT, WE HOPE THAT COLT WILL NOT USE ITS ROLE IN THE MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSING PROCEDURE IN A WAY THAT WILL BE DISCERNED BY THE THAI AS SLOWING DOWN THE RTG'S ACQUISITION OF M-16'S.

WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: MASS, SN, TH, US, COLT, HECKLER-KOCH
To: STATE
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